

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 148

Expressing the sense of the Congress that America's public education system belongs to all Americans and should be celebrated for the role the system plays in strengthening American values and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for this Nation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 10, 2003

Mr. CARDIN submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that America's public education system belongs to all Americans and should be celebrated for the role the system plays in strengthening American values and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for this Nation.

Whereas America's public school students and staff reflect the Nation's diversity and rich heritage;

Whereas America's public school system guarantees more than 50,000,000 children a broad, comprehensive education regardless of their race, faith, or ability to pay;

Whereas America's public school teachers dedicate themselves daily to the development of each and every student's full potential, including developmentally disabled children;

Whereas America's public schools educate more than 4,500,000 children each year for whom English is a second language;

Whereas America's public schools bring together on common ground students from a myriad of cultural and religious backgrounds, and thereby teach the value of understanding;

Whereas America's public schools provide more than one-third of their students with free or reduced price meals each day, and thereby teach the value of humanitarianism;

Whereas America's public schools offer after-school programs that provide a safe haven for nearly 1,000,000 children in impoverished neighborhoods, and thereby teach the value of compassion;

Whereas America's public schools teach more than 500,000 children who have no permanent address, and thereby teach the value of acceptance;

Whereas thousands of America's public school teachers spend their personal funds on textbooks, notebook paper, and pencils in underfunded school districts, and thereby teach the value of altruism; and

Whereas the unanimous landmark 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision held, in the words of Chief Justice Earl Warren, that "education is perhaps the most important function of state and local governments. Compulsory school attendance laws and the great expenditures for education both demonstrate our recognition of the importance of education to our democratic society . . . It is the very foundation of good citizenship . . . It is a principal

instrument in awakening the child to cultural values’’:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that
3 America’s public education system belongs to all Ameri-
4 cans and should be celebrated for the role the system plays
5 in strengthening American values and ensuring a brighter,
6 stronger future for this Nation.

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